



Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the U.S. 70 Bypass located?

The 10.7-mile highway stretches from I-40 at mile marker 310 in Wake County to the U.S. 70/U.S. 70 Business split in Johnston County.

What does this project entail?

A four-lane, divided highway will be constructed to relieve congestion on existing U.S. 70 and provide motorists traveling to Raleigh or to the coast with an alternate route. Motorists traveling to I-40 through Clayton will have a faster, less congested route.

When will the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass be complete?

The U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass is scheduled to be complete in June 2009.

When will New Bethel Road reopen to thru-traffic?

New Bethel Road is currently closed to thru-traffic at I-40 to allow construction of a new bridge over I-40. The new New Bethel Road bridge is expected to open in October 2006. This bridge will serve only New Bethel Road traffic east of I-40 but west of the Johnston/Wake County line. Once the bridge over I-40 is reopened, New Bethel Road will be permanently closed to thru-traffic at the Johnston/Wake County line. Turn-arounds will be constructed on New Bethel Road on both sides of the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass, permanently splitting the road into two sections. New Bethel Road will not reopen to thru-traffic.

Will I be able to access the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass from New Bethel Road or Cornwallis Road?

Motorists will be unable to access the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass from New Bethel Road or Cornwallis Road. The U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass is a controlled access facility, which means that it can only be accessed from interchanges at I-40, N.C. 42, Ranch Road and the U.S. 70/U.S. 70 Business split.

How will the proposed location of I-540 affect the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass?

Although the I-540 design plans have not been finalized, NCDOT has purchased additional right of way around the I-40/U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass interchange to tie-in the future I-540. However, I-540 will also be a controlled access facility. This interchange will likely allow motorists to access I-40, I-540, or the U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass. Motorists will be unable to access the future I-540 from New Bethel Road or Cornwallis Road.

Why does NCDOT close lanes during the day or on weekends when motorists are on the road?

In its contract with S.T. Wooten Corp., NCDOT established time restrictions that prevent the contractor from working in the roadway during peak travel times and other unusually high volume periods.

Since the beginning of construction, NCDOT has adjusted the time restrictions to lessen the impacts to motorists, particularly on I-40.

Although we are unable to avoid all inconvenience to the traveling public, NCDOT has implemented these time restrictions to minimize motorists' inconvenience as much as possible.

While night work is not the most efficient and cost-effective option in all situations, the contractor may perform construction operations at night in an effort to minimize the inconvenience to motorists.

How will NCDOT ensure the preservation of the environment as part of the project?

NCDOT will preserve the integrity of every stream, wetland or environmentally sensitive area as part of the goals of the project.

Detailed erosion control plans have been developed to address each environmentally sensitive site on this project. NCDOT's inspection staff works closely with S. T. Wooten Corp. and their subcontractors to ensure that those plans are followed. Erosion control measures will be constructed correctly and maintained after storm events and during the life of this project.

New vegetation is being established in disturbed areas as quickly as possible to prevent run-off. There are construction crews dedicated to erosion control.

Regular meetings are taking place with the contractor and NCDOT project staff, and with the environmental agencies. NCDOT will continue to work closely with these environmental agencies to ensure that plans are being carried out.